Message

From: Walter Lamb [landtrust@ballona.org]

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Subject: Request for agenda item regarding planned access to Area A of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Attachments: Area A Notice_Final.pdf

Dear EC members;

Since at least as early as December of last year, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife has been planning for limited public access to Area A of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (see draft flyer attached). However, CDFW is working through various obstacles that have delayed the announcement and implementation of this expanded access. SMBRC has expressly supported expanding access to Area A via the existing gate on Fiji Way in the past, such as in the 2008 and 2013 updates to the Bay Restoration Plan. A flyer created by the Bay Foundation in connection with the restoration planning process that addresses public access can be found here.

The Land Trust respectfully requests that the Executive Committee consider adding an agenda item for the August meeting of the Governing Board in order to get an update on this planned new access, including an assessment of any obstacles, and to consider a resolution in support of this planned access. Despite differences of opinion on other matters, the need for near-term public access and educational opportunities seems to be an area of common ground. The benefits to the public, especially students from low-income school districts, is substantial.

Thank you for considering this request.

Walter

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